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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/677,314	09/29/2000	Ralph Bonomo	RPS9-00-0058	2397

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EXAMINER

VO, TIM T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2112

DATE MAILED: 11/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/677,314

Applicant(s)

BONOMO ET AL.

Examiner

Tim T. Vo

Art Unit

2112

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 10-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 and 10-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Part III DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

This application has been examined. Claims 1-8 and 10-20 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 1-8 and 10-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § **102(e)** as being anticipated by Jones et al. patent number 6,438,638 referred hereinafter "Jones".

As for claims 1, 10 and 17, Jones teaches a method for increasing control information from a single general purpose input/output (GPIO) mechanism (see figure 3B, CompactFlash reader 42), the method comprising:

utilizing a single GPIO mechanism with a socket on a computer system (see figure 3B, CompactFlash reader 42, opening slot and column 5 lines 5 lines 3B-40); and

determining whether a first card, a second card, or no card is installed in the socket according to detected changes in signals state on a single line between the GPIO mechanism and the socket (see figure 3B, controller chip 40, CF card 16, Memory stick 18, SmartMedia card 24, Multimedia card 28, Secure Digital card 28 and column 5 line 35 to column 6 line 67, wherein the controller chip 40 determines what type of card is inserted to the opening slot of the reader 42 by utilizing pins A0 and A1. Further, the controller chip 40 also determines presence of the card or not by utilizing pins CD0, CD1. Further, Jones utilizes a single line for the above detection as discloses in figure 3B, a single line is connecting from opening slot to controller chip 40).

As for claims 2-5, 13-15, 20, Jones teaches wherein determining further comprises writing a signal in first state by a POST (power on self test) (see column 5 line 60 to column 6 line 67, wherein when the controller chip is programmed to read pins connections from the insertion of the card and then power the card through the power pin correspondingly).

As for claims 6-7, Jones teaches wherein the state of the GPIO mechanism changes in accordance with state changes by the POST routine, no card is installed in the socket (see figure 3B, column 6 lines 44-46).

As for claim 8, Jones teaches wherein one of the first and second cards pulls-up the signal line, and the other of the first and second cards pulls down the signal-line (see figures 4A-4E).

As for claims 11-12, Jones teaches wherein the first card occupies the socket, the single signal is pulled to a first logic gate (see figure 3B and single signal is connecting from the controller chip 40 to the opening slot).

As for claims 16, 18-19, Jones teaches circuit comprises resistor-capacitor circuit (see figures 4A-4E).


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tim T. Vo whose telephone number is 571-272-3642. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on 571-272-3630. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

10/30/04


Tim T. Vo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2112